

BLANCHARD FOREST OPEN HOUSE

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Sponsored By: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

When: Wednesday, June 30th, 2004. From 6:30 p.m. To 9:00 p.m.

Where: Edison Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room
5801 Main Street at east edge of town of Edison, WA

Website: www.dnr.wa.gov

The public is invited to an open house to be held by Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about its Blanchard Forest Management Strategies project. DNR has begun a process to develop strategies for stewardship of the 4,827 acres of Forest Board state trust lands – known as Blanchard Mountain or Blanchard Hill – located in northwestern Skagit County.

The meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., June 30, in the Edison Elementary School multi-purpose room in Edison. The public is welcome to come at any time during the evening. DNR will provide information about Blanchard Forest, its current management objectives, the public involvement process, and capture the public's comments and ideas about Blanchard Forest.

Open House style meeting will be informal and interactive.

An 'open house' format with different 'information posts' hosted by DNR staff will offer opportunities for individuals to ask questions and make comments about specific issues. Each 'information post' will have maps or information about specific areas of interest such as DNR's trust responsibilities, public access, forest environment and current management activities.

DNR would like participants to offer their thoughts on what they value about Blanchard Forest as well as ways to provide for those values through a variety of strategies.

Strategies will be developed to achieve management objectives.

DNR anticipates developing strategies that are geographically specific within the forest; and that include components for recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed, timber harvest and other commercial opportunities. DNR will consider all public comments as it develops a draft set of strategies.

After the open house meeting, additional public comments are invited.

Comments may be sent via e-mail to BlanchardForest@wadnr.gov, or mail written comments to: Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Northwest Region, Attention Blanchard Forest Management Strategies, 919 N. Township St., Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284. Questions about the project may be directed to Jim Cahill at 360-856-3500.